From Troop 7, Coral Gables, http://www.troop7.org/

Explanations of Boy Scout Knots:

Figure Eight Knot
Often used in such places as the end of a string when tying a package with a slipknot or in the end of a rope forming a lariat loop.

Double Sheet Bend
Thanks to Patrick Greenlee for in forming us about this knot. The following is their information as it was when it was sent to us. Thanks again, Patrick, for helping to make this site one of the best around!

"The double sheet bend, like the sheet bend is used to fasten a small line to a larger one. In the illustration the light colored line would be the smaller and the darker one would be the larger. A double sheet bend may be employed when a sheet bend may not have enough friction to hold well.

"In your web picture it would appear that the person that tied the knot was left handed or standing on their head as the darker line is held fast and the lighter line is manipulated to form the knot, it would have been quite awkward for a right handed person positioned right side up.

"I have personally tied triple sheet bends to secure polypropylene due to its being so slippery and still when not under some tension it may loosen enough to fall apart."

Cat's Paw
The cat's paw is a better way to attach a rope to a hook than using a blackwall. It will not slip and needs no constant strain to hold Form two loops and turn them inward one or two complete turns. Hang these "eyes" over the hook or other such object.

Fisherman's Knot
The fisherman's knot is used for joining two fine lines such as fishing leaders. It is simply two overhand knots, one holding the right-hand line, and the the other the left-hand line. Pull each of the twooverhand knots taut separatley. Then make the whole knot taut so the two overhand knots come together by pulling on the standing parts of each line.

Miller's Knot
This is a close relative of the clove hitch and is used in tying sacks with heavy string or cord. Note that the first turn around the sack leads over the forefinger and the others pass under all fingers.

Bowline on Bight
Like the French bowline, the bowline on a bight forms two loops, but they must be of the same size. Start by making a good-size bight and an overhand loop. Bring the end loop and bring it down and around the entire knot. Set the knot securely before putting weight on it.

Chain Hitch
Thanks to Martin Dailey of Alcatel Submarine Networks in Portland, Oregon for informing us about this knot. The following is their information as it was when it was sent to us. Thanks again, Patrick, for helping to make this site one of the best around!

"We build fiber optic Cable witch is put on the ocean floor. Some of the cable is as large as 2 inches in Diameter. When we need to pull some cable from one tank to another we tie a chain hitch on the cable and use the rope to start pulling the cable . It is a verry nice Hitch it locks on itself and you can pull anything with it."

Surgeon's Knot
The surgeon's knot is a square knot with an extra twist. The purpose of this knot is to give added friction to hold until the second crossing is made.

Sailor's Knot
Thanks to Lee Mager from Troop 153 of NYC for informing us about this knot. Thanks again for helping to make this site one of the best around!

"It's basically two half hitches. It has the same advantage. Pulling the knot back along the line it goes around can be used to make the line taut. It's good for tent lines too."

Stevedor's Knot
This is the same as the figure eight knot, except that is has an extra loop. This makes it larger and more chainlike in appearance.

Timber Hitch
This is an important hitch, especially for dragging a heavy object like a log. It will hold firmly so long as there is a steady pull; slacking and jerking may loosen it. The timber hitch is also useful in pioneering when two timbers are "sprung" together. When it is used for dragging, a simple hitch should be added near the front end of the object to guide it.

Clove Hitch
This is one of the most widely used knots. Because it passes around an object in only one direction, it puts very little strain on the rope fibers. Tying it over an object that is open at one end is done by dropping one overhand loop over the post and drawing them together. The other method of tying it is used most commonly if the object is closed at both ends or is too high to toss loops over. The latter is used in starting and finishing most lashings.

Double Carrick Bend
The double carrick bend is used for joining 2 very thick ropes at the end, usually used by towboats to tow large cargo ships. the ends should be tied together.

Running Knot
Thanks to Lee Mager from Troop 153 of NYC for informing us about this knot. Thanks again for helping to make this site one of the best around!

"It's a slip knot. If tied around another line, it could be pulled or 'run' along it. But, pulling would also tighten it and sometimes there could be too much friction."

Double Overhand
An overhand knot, doubled for better strength.

Two Half Hitches
This is a reliable and useful knot for attaching a rope to a pole or boat mooring. As it's name suggests, it is two half hitches, one after the other. To finish, push them together and snug them by pulling on the standing part.

Taut-line Hitch
Since it will only slide one way, the Taut-line hitch is often used on tent ropes. The taut-line hitch will hold firmly on a smooth pole such as a scout stave. Place rope end around pole, make a turn below it, then bring rope up across the standing part around the pole and tuck through.

Marlinspike Hitch
It is used to temporarily secure a marlinspike, a device used to splice rope, to another object. It is a useful knot if the sailor needed to hold somehting and wanted to be sure the marlinspike would be safe.

Square Knot
You can loosen the square knot easily by either pushing the ends toward the knot or by "upsetting" the knot by pulling back on one end and pulling the other through the loops.

Killick Hitch
A killick is the name for an anchor for a small boat that could be constructed in a relatively short period of time. Three or four "L" shaped pieces of wood - from the limbs of trees - and a large rock or stone plus rope/twine were used in the construction. The stone was positioned between the wood and securely fastened with the rope or twine. The killick knot secured the anchor rope to the wooden part of the "killick". The weight of the stone was enough to sink it and the outward facing parts of the wood dug into the sea floor. A very serviceable anchor.

Blackwall Hitch
This is a simple half hitch over a hook. It will hold only when subjected to a constant strain. A stopper knot in the end will make it a little more secure but human life should never be trusted to it.

Fisherman's Eye
The fisherman's eye is also known as the middleman's knot. The 2 knots will slide together and jam when strained, hence its great for carrying loads

Bowline
The bowline has been called the king of knots. It will never slip or jam if properly made and, thus, is excellent for tying around a person in a rescue. Begin by formatting an overhand loop in the standing part. Then take the free end up through the eye, around the standing part and back where it came from.

Slippery Hitch
This is occasionally useful but should be temporary. It is actually only an overhand knot around the object with the end run back through the knot and left "slippery." It can be quickly untied by pulling on the free end. The slippery half-hitch can be locked by passing the end back through the eye and pulling tight.

Hitching Tie
This is a common method of hitching animals. Notice that it is a type of slippery hitch.

Halyard Bend
Tr.456 Palmyra,PA Thanks to Assistant Scoutmaster Schlegel of Troop 456, Palmyra, PA for informing us about this knot. The following is their information as it was when it was sent to us. Thanks again, Patrick, for helping to make this site one of the best
around!

"Having been a SM2 in the US Navy I became familiar with the Halyard bend. As a signalman this securing style hitch was used to secure the halyards for the ships signal flags."

Midshipman's Hitch
An excellent hitch which can be temporary or permanent. It is recommended by Ashley to be the best knot to use if you have fallen overboard and a rope is thrown to you. It also makes an excellent Guy line hitch if a slider on a guy is broken or missing. It is identical in form to a Rolling Hitch. ....this knot is also useful as a binder knot for a bale or roll: it can be made and slipped up tight, then slipped back to loosen the package as and when required.
- Courtesy Loy Xingkai
From "An ABC of Knots"
Unknown Author and Publisher

Lark's Head
The Lark's Head is often used on small sailboats to fasten a jib sheet to the clew since it is smaller and smoother than two bowlines would be and thus less likely to get hung up or add to wind resistance. It is better to add a seizing.

Sheet Bend
The sheet bend is the most important knot for joining two rope ends, especially if the ropes are of different sizes. Sailors named it in the days of sailing ships when they would "bend" (tie) the "sheets&quot' (ropes in the rigging of a ship).
Begin with a bight in the larger rope. Then weave the end of the smaller rope through the eye, around the bight, and back under itself. Snug it carefully before applying any strain to the knot.

Granny Knot
Thanks to Lee Mager from Troop 153 of NYC for informing us about this knot. Thanks again for helping to make this site one of the best around!

"It was said to be a square knot done wrong by a 'granny' or landlubber."

Sheepshank
This knot is used to shorten a rope that is fastened at both ends. Take up the slack, then make an underhand loop and slide it over the blight and pull tight. Do the same to the other end to complete the knot. The sheepshank is only a temporary knot as it stands. But it can be made more permanent by adding a second half hitch to each end.

Double Figure Eight
Thanks to Owen Swift of Bowdoin College for informing us about this knot. Thanks again for helping to make this site one of the best around!

"It is a knot that, among other things, is used for attaching a rope to a climbing harness. Your picture shows it tied with two separate ropes (which is possible), but I have commonly seen it tied with one."

Half Hitch
The half hitch is the start of a number of other hitches and is useful all by itself as a temporary attaching knot. It will hold against a steady pull on the standing part, especially as a stopper knot like the stevedore's knot or other figure eight knot is put in the end.

Rolling Hitch
Tie a clove hitch, then bring the rope an extra turn around the post between the other two turns, and tuck under the diagonal section. The rolling hitch holds well as long as there is strain on the rope.

Fisherman's Bend
Thanks to Charles Livingston for informing us about this knot. Thanks again for helping to make this site one of the best around!

"Fisherman's bend, or anchor bend, an specially strong and simple knot that will not jam or slip under strain and can be untied easily. When not under strain, however, the fisherman's bend may slip loose if the free end is not secured. The knot is used to attach a rope to a ring, hook, or other solid object, such as an anchor."

Tiller's Hitch

A tiller is the "steering wheel" of a sailing vessel and is simply a long handle that's attached to the top of the boat's rudder (the piece in the water that causes the boat to change direction when it is moved). Sailor's want to have CONTROL over that tiller for it can mean disaster if it's not under control. However, not all things are perfect at sea (or life) and sometimes you have to make a "second-best" decision, like having to leave the tiller for a moment. You simply can't leave the tiller "loose" so the next best thing is to tie it down, hopefully in a position that will have the boat moving in the direction you want it to be going while you aren't holding the tiller for that short interval. So what kind of knot could you use that would be a good holding knot, YET IMMEDIATELY RELEASABLE
WHEN YOU GET BACK TO IT? The Tiller's Hitch, as a sheetbend would probably slip.